

To: Fitz-James, Schatzi[Fitz-James.Schatzi@epa.gov]
From: Elliott, Ross
Sent: Tue 8/11/2015 2:22:03 PM
Subject: RE: Request to staff the HQ EOC for Abandoned Mine Release into Animas River today

Already coordinating. He mentioned Shahid this morning when we met to discuss some ideas.

EPA really seems to have stepped in it here.

From: Fitz-James, Schatzi
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 10:00 AM
To: Elliott, Ross
Subject: RE: Request to staff the HQ EOC for Abandoned Mine Release into Animas River today

Recommend Patrick coordinate with Shahid in OSRTI who is also digging into the background of the mine in order to coordinate efforts, info, etc. order for . Shahid's holding a mining team meeting tomorrow (I presume Patrick is a team member) and this response is top agenda item.

From: Elliott, Ross
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 9:23 AM
To: ORCR IO; Devlin, Betsy
Cc: Fitz-James, Schatzi; Kirkland, Kim; Ames, Jeremy; Kelly, PatrickM
Subject: FW: Request to staff the HQ EOC for Abandoned Mine Release into Animas River today

We will wait and see whether we are needed to staff EOC. Dana knows they can reach back to us as needed for now. Let me know if you would like me to proceed differently.

Yesterday I reviewed and felt pretty comfortable approving a response to the press generated largely by OSRTI (reviewed by others, I believe) that Jeremy showed me late Monday. Neither the question nor the answer implicated RCRA in any way I could see, so the answer was centered on the CERCLA experiences with mines, and answered the question. (Jeremy, can you share the Q and A w/ this group when you get a moment? Thanks). However, from here on out,

we will run any of these past you.

As the cleanup phase proceeds, given the reported high levels of As, Pb, etc. we have heard in the news, we may run across questions about Bevill (similar to BP questions). Even if non-HW, having come from a Superfund site the public will view it as "hazardous waste" regardless. Patrick has been looking into the specific function of the unit from which the release occurred, and what we have said in the past about Bevill and the kind of material released in CO. While we have not received any questions on Bevill yet, I expect we will at some point and just want to get some basic answers.

From: Tulis, Dana

Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 9:13 PM

To: Elliott, Ross

Cc: Devlin, Betsy; Kirkland, Kim; Woodyard, Josh

Subject: Re: Request to staff the HQ EOC for Abandoned Mine Release into Animas River today

Thank you for the offer, we will let you know.

Dana S. Tulis

Deputy Office Director

Office of Emergency Management

US EPA

202-564-7938

On Aug 10, 2015, at 3:36 PM, "Elliott, Ross" <Elliott.Ross@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Dana, we have staff familiar w/ mining waste (e.g., Bevill exemption, structural stability issues) aware and ready should there be any need for reach back; I just wanted to clarify do you need a POC for ORCR on this?

Ross

From: Tulis, Dana
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 2:30 PM
To: NICT; NICT CCS
Cc: Cheatham, Reggie; Woodyard, Josh; Canzler, Erica; Hull, George
Subject: Request to staff the HQ EOC for Abandoned Mine Release into Animas River today

Hi folks! The Animas River release is now impacting Regions 6, 8 and 9. As a result, we are activating the HQEOC to help with coordination on messaging (PI0), data review and planning (OW, OSWER, ORD), congressional outreach (OCIR), claims (OECA) and legal issues (OGC). Can each of your affected offices, please provide us with at least one staff contact for the HQEOC, who can also reach back to others in your office as needed. At this time, we are thinking of a small staff (10 to 15 staff) , to support the Unified Command in Durango. Our most senior Agency leaders are involved with this response and we appreciate your support. Please send your list of folks to Josh Woodyard and myself today. Thanks so much for your support.

Dana S. Tulis
Deputy Office Director

Office of Emergency Management, EPA

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